

Southern Adventist University  
**Knowledge Exchange**

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The Main Thing Devotional

Chaplain's Office

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## **Hope in Jesus**

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"But now, O Jacob, [*personalize it by adding in your name \_\_\_\_*] listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel [*your name \_\_\_\_*], the one who formed you says, "**Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.** I have called you by name; **you are mine.** When you go through deep waters, **I will be with you.** When you go through rivers of difficulty, **you will not drown.** When you walk through the fire of oppression, **you will not be burned up,** the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, **your Savior.** I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because **you are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.**" Isaiah 43:1-4 NLT.

### Hope in Jesus

It is good for us to look forward to a new year with hopeful expectancy just as much as we look forward to a new day ripe with new opportunities. However, there is a greater source of hope for those who believe in Jesus Christ.

You see, 2022 can't promise you it will bring only good things and no despair, uncertainty, or pain. 2022 can't promise to hold you in the midst of difficult times or offer relief when you feel overwhelmed. But Jesus. Jesus has already promised us that He will be with us to carry us through it all. We may find temporal hope in a new year, but I invite you to march with me into this new year singing this declaration:

*"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."* Hymn #522

"I am the Lord, your Holy One, Israel's Creator and King. I am the Lord, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick. "**But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!** Do you not see it? **I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.** The wild animals in the fields will thank me, the jackals and owls, too, for giving them water in the desert. Yes, I will make rivers in the dry wasteland **so my chosen people can be refreshed.** I have made Israel for myself, and they will someday honor me before the whole world." Isaiah 43:15-21 NLT.

Is your hope in Christ alone? Is your hope in the promises of our eternal, holy God? Is your confidence in all the evidence of a just and merciful, personal Savior who has been actively involved in humanity's experience throughout the generations? As we step into this new year and this new semester, may you make Jesus the main thing in your life and center all your priorities, resolutions, ambitions, and hopes around the one that loves you with reckless abandon.

**PRAY:** *Gracious God, I praise you for you are good and worthy to be praised. Your Word shows me the evidence of your goodness even when my present circumstances may sometimes call that into question. I thank you for the way you've gone before me, and made a way for me. I thank you for the way you've*

*held me when situations have threatened to totally consume me. I confess that there have been times my fears have eclipsed my hope in you. I ask you in supplication today to renew my hope in you - to plant my feet firmly on Christ the Solid Rock so that whatever happens this new year - good or bad - does not cause me to waver in my faith in you. I pray this in your loving name, amen.*

## **NEWS & RESOURCES**

- It's not too late to sign up for the **21-Day Challenge** even though it began January 5. Students, faculty and staff are challenged to spend 21 minutes of devoted time with God for 21 days. Resources to get started, such as reading plans, prayer prompts, journaling guides, and more, are provided for campus at <https://bit.ly/3pteZTt>. Additionally, when completing the sign-up form, you can opt-in to receive text messages with reminders and encouragement. [#SAU21in21](#)
- **10 Days of Prayer:** The Office of Ministry and Missions is joining the Collegedale University Church for 10 Days of Prayer beginning January 5 and ending January 14. Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Follow **@ministryandmissions** on Instagram for updates on events and programs as well as encouraging messages and [check out our website](#) for many new resources.
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.) **Talk** with Chaplain [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.